[Translation]

Indo-Pak Trade Relations

*310. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the existing visa system between India and Pakistan for reopening of mutual trade and establishing trade relations with each other;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said proposal has since been finalised;

(d) if so, the main features of the proposal; and

(e) if not, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (e) In pursuance of our policy to promote people-to-people contact, to assist the separated families and to encourage commercial and economic relations between India and Pakistan, Government have unilaterally eased the issuance of visas to Pakistani business persons and trade delegations. Government are also actively considering proposals for a more liberal visa regime for Pakistani business persons.

Doctors Eager to Join Private Hospitals

*311. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doctors and specialists working in various Government hospitals especially those working in big hospitals in Delhi and other parts of the country are eager to join private hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government ot retain their services;

(c) the number in percentage of senior doctors and surgeons who have joined private hospitals during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The feedback received from the Central Government hospitals and those under the National Capital Territory of Delhi does not indicate that the doctors are leaving to join private hospitals in significant numbers. However, there are always cases of doctors leaving for various personal reasons including assignments in the Private sector and abroad. This proportion is not high.

A number of measures have been taken to increase the satisfaction level of doctors by giving them opportunities to travel, widen their knowledge and present research papers at national and international fora. besides improving their working conditions to the extent resources permit.

(c) Over the last 3 years, 2.2% doctors from the total Central Health Service Cadre have resigned on personal grounds in the last three years. In the case of AIIMS and PGIMER, Chandigarh, the numbers who have left represent 6.7% and 4.1% of the total faculty strength over a period of three years. No indication has been given by such doctors about their joining private hospitals.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Secondary Health System

*312. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds proposed to be earmarked for secondary health system in the country for Ninth Plan;

(b) the number of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres proposed to be set up in different States during Ninth Plan;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Governments for revamping sesondary health system in the States;

(d) if so, whether the Government have forwarded that project proposal to the World Bank for assistance;

(e) if so, the reaction of the World Bank thereto;

(f) the funds likely to be obtained from World Bank for implementing those projects in the country; and

(g) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (g) Health is a State subject and Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres are set up by the State Governments according to the outlays earmarked for this purpose in the plan period. The Ninth Plan has not been finalised.

Proposals have been received from some State Governments for strengthening the secondary health infrastructure with World Bank assistance. Such Projects are already under implementation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Punjab.

The State Proposals are processed through detailed discussions with the external agency and generally take upto twenty four months to fructify, depending on the time taken on the design and formulation of the projects by the States.